

The Montana Association of Counties supports Medicaid Expansion for the State of Montana. The subcommittee of the Montana Association of Counties Health and Human Services has voted unanimously to support Medicaid Expansion.

A few specifics of concern to Counties include County owned Hospitals and locally operated Hospital Districts are located in 13 Montana counties. *sheridan from Sheridan to Scobey*
Charity care and bad debt become the direct responsibility of local governments with these facilities. **In 2011, these 13 smaller local health care facilities were responsible for a conservatively estimated subsidy of \$1,579, 206 in charity care.**

Under expansion, the **charity care** amount is expected to decrease substantially, allowing the local facilities to focus on other operational expenses.

{**Also in 2011, these same facilities had 3.9 M in bad debt.** Much of this is considered to have been accrued by low income patients; however, since these patients did not apply for charity care, the **bad debt component** is more difficult to measure.}

In addition:

- Pre-Adjudication Inmate medical costs in county detention facilities are substantial, for example one county currently ~~has a \$1M claim~~ *is reserving* for a prisoner health matter.
- Counties also welcome increased coverage for Montana's Veterans, Native Americans, and note that County Public Health departments will also benefit from enhanced coverage for low income clients. Counties typically levy property taxes for Hospitals, Hospital Districts, and County Health Departments; there are 11 Community Health Centers around the state. *Riverstone*
is one Additionally, increased coverage under expansion is predicted to positively impact patients with Mental Health and Addictive Disorders by providing some coverage for treatment for these patients.

Medicaid expansion would allow reinvestment into Montana Communities.

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